

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00368 201444Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----201445Z 115490 /42

P R 201253Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 238
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T AMMAN 0368

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR EAID JO US IS SY
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER BADRAN--WATER RIGHTS AND
MAQARAN

1. I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY IN THE COURSE OF A MEETING
WITH PRIME MINISTER BADRAN TO BRIEF HIM ON THE "INFORMAL GOOD
OFFICES" ROLE WHICH WE PLAN TO TAKE ON THE MAQARIN QUESTION.
I TOLD HIM ABOUT OUR IMPLEMENTING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
ISRAELIS AND THE RELEASE OF THE HARZA REPORT.

2. BADRAN INDICATED HE WAS DEEPLY DISTURBED ABOUT
PRESS REPORTS OF THE CONSTRUCTION BY THE ISRAELIS OF
A 48- INCH WATER LINE TO TRANSFER YARMOUK "FLOOD"
WATER TO LAKE TIBERIAS.

COMMENT) WE HAVE ARABIC TEXT OF SPECIFIC ARTICLES
IN ISRAELI PRESS THAT BADRAN HAS READ. EMBASSY HAS
ASKED EMBASSY TEL AVIV FOR ENGLISH TRANSLATION AND
SUGGESTED ARTICLES BE SHOWN TO USAID OFFICIALS AND
PROFESSOR BAXTER DURING THEIR FORTHCOMING VISIT TO
TEL AVIV.) HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE US WOULD TAKE
INTO ACCOUNT THE FULL HISTORY OF THE WATER PROBLEM

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IN ANY CONSIDERATION AND THE FACT THAT THE ISRAELIS
HAD ALREADY OBTAINED A GREAT DEAL OF JORDAN VALLEY
WATER FOR PROJECTS OF THEIR OWN WHILE CONSTANTLY
PROTESTING ANY JORDANIAN USE.

3. I SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD KNOW THAT
WE WERE APPROACHING THE PROBLEM WITH AN OPEN MIND

AND WITH A DEEP SENSE OF EQUITY AND JUSTICE CONCERNING
THE PROCESS, THE NEXT STEP WAS TO HEAR ISRAELI VIEWS
AND THEN BACK IN TOUCH WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNING
OUT THOUGHTS.

4. HE THANKED ME FOR BRIEFING HIM AND FOR THE ROLE
THE US HAD AGREED TO PLAY. HE SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD
TO REMAINING IN TOUCH WITH US ON THE ISSUE.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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